

# U.S. MILITARY STRATEGY IN THE REGION

Compiled by Information Resource Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Jakarta

## Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates in Indonesia, July 22, 2010

### U.S. Embassy Jakarta Mission Statement

Based on mutual respect and shared values, the U.S.

Mission works with Indonesia to strengthen democracy, sustain the environment, promote prosperity, enhance understanding and ensure security for our people, our nations, and our region.

### Inside this issue:

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates in Indonesia, July 22, 2010	1
Indonesia-U.S. Comprehensive Partnership: Political and Security Cooperation	2
U.S. Embassy Jakarta Offices for Military Cooperation	3
IRC Resources on U.S. Military Issues	4
About IRC	4

### Gates Seeks Stronger Military Ties With Indonesia

By John D. Banusiewicz  
American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates arrived on July 22, 2010 for meetings intended to enhance defense ties between the United States and Indonesia.

The secretary's first order of business here was to inform Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono that the United States will begin a process of re-engagement with Kopassus, the special forces branch of Indonesia's army.

"I was pleased to be able to tell the president that as a result of Indonesian military reforms over the past decade, the ongoing professionalization of the [Indonesian armed forces], and recent actions taken by the ministry of defense to address human rights issues," Gates told reporters after his meeting with Yudhoyono, "the United States will begin a gradual, limited program of security cooperation activities with the Indonesian army special forces."

Gates said he told Yudhoyono that these initial steps would be taken within the limits of U.S. law, and that they do not signal any lessening of the importance the United States places on human rights and ac-

countability.

"What's more," he added, "our ability to expand upon these initial steps will depend upon continued implementation of reforms within Kopassus and the [Indonesian military] as a whole."

U.S. and Indonesian officials have been working for some time to figure out how, and under what conditions, the United States can re-engage with Kopassus, a senior official told reporters on background. "We certainly want to," he said, "but it's important that this is done in accordance with our laws and our values and our interests."

Congress cut off military training assistance to Indonesia in 1992 after Indonesian security forces shot and killed East Timorese demonstrators in November 1991. The restriction was partially lifted in 1995, but military assistance programs were suspended again after violence and destruction in East Timor following an Aug. 30, 1999, referendum favoring independence from Indonesia. Though normal military relations between the United States and Indonesia have resumed, the issue of providing training for Kopassus



*Indonesian military members greet U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates upon his arrival at the Halim Perdanakusuma International Airport in Jakarta, Indonesia, July 22, 2010.*

remained unresolved until earlier this week, the official said.

"I think everybody can recognize that the transformation that Indonesia has made as a country and that the military has made has

been remarkable over the past decade-plus since the fall of [President] Suharto," the official said. "The military itself has greatly improved its human rights record, and all of that has enabled us to re-engage more."

The final breakthrough came when in compliance with a U.S. request, Indonesia removed all individuals from Kopassus who had been convicted of human rights crimes associated with the violence around the time of East Timor's separation from Indonesia, the senior official said. The number was "fewer than a dozen," he added. Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell noted that retirements, attrition and the ongoing professionalization of the Indonesian military have changed Kopassus in the decade

— *Continue to page 3*

## Indonesia-U.S. Comprehensive Partnership: Political and Security Cooperation

September 17, 2010

### Plan of Action to Implement the Indonesia-U.S. Comprehensive Partnership

To give substance to the Indonesia-U.S. Comprehensive Partnership, and notwithstanding the possibility of exploring other areas of cooperation, U.S. Department of State, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs dedicate them selves to expanding and deepening the cooperation for Political and Security on the following priorities:

1. To deepen and broaden cooperation in promoting good governance, democracy, and human rights, by enhancing dialogue and capacity building through bilateral, regional, and multilateral initiatives such as the Bali Democracy Forum (BDF);
2. To uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms for all on the basis of equality, and to promote and to protect such rights and freedoms in all levels of society and in cooperation with the international community in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and international human rights instruments;
3. To work together through the UN and in cooperation with relevant institutions such as ASEAN to find common ground on the protection and promotion of human rights;
4. To become partners in maintaining regional and international peace and security in Southeast Asia and beyond. To strengthen regional and multilateral approaches in promoting international peace and cooperation, including through relevant institutions such as ASEAN, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the UN;
5. To strengthen bilateral defense and security cooperation through dialogue and capacity building as appropriate in areas such as security sector reform, training, education, personnel exchanges, intelligence exchange, peacekeeping

operations, maritime security, nuclear safety and security, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations, and military equipment; to work together under the recently signed framework arrangement between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the United States of America on Cooperative Activities in the Field of Defense;

6. To strengthen cooperation in preventing and combating non-traditional challenges in regional security; including disaster management and response, maritime security, counter-terrorism, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, illicit drug trafficking, illicit trafficking of nuclear materials and radioactive sources, communicable diseases, corruption, money laundering, cyber crime and international economic crimes, natural resources crimes, illegal logging and its associated trade, and illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing; through enhancing capacity building, border management, exchange of information and regular consultation mechanism bilaterally; and through ASEAN and the ARF; as well as through the Jakarta Center for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC);
7. To reaffirm the role of ASEAN as the primary driving force in developing regional cooperation through the establishment of ASEAN Community, as well as the United States' important role in the maintenance of peace and security in Southeast Asia, including through its accession to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, and through efforts to resolve outstanding issues related to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone;
8. To promote international peace and security through cooperation in achieving disarmament and non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), in accordance with the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons

**Indonesia: PM's Foreign Military Financing supports Indonesian efforts to reform its military and to build its capacity for responding to disasters and participating in peacekeeping operations.**

*Bureau of Political-Military Affairs' Regional Programs: East Asia and the Pacific*

*Link: <http://goo.gl/9JFmf>*

Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention, as well as pursuing ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT);

9. To enhance cooperation in strengthening the UN peacekeeping operations, through, inter alia, enhancing the capacity of the peacekeeping training centre in Indonesia, as well as supporting the establishment of the police peacekeeping training centre. These centers in the future could serve as a network hub for regional peacekeeping training centers;

10. To promote close cooperation in law enforcement and legal assistance, including for the purpose of international asset recovery from either the respective jurisdiction of the two countries or third countries within the relevant international legal instruments; to continue working toward a bilateral mutual legal assistance treaty;

11. To work closely in maritime issues and ocean affairs through information exchanges, and building capabilities for hazardous material spills response;

12. To sustain efforts towards the effective reform of the UN system, with a view to strengthening multilateralism and reinforcing the role of the UN in maintaining and promoting international peace and security.

Source: <http://goo.gl/hilM7>

## U.S. Military Offices at The U.S. Embassy Jakarta

### Defense Attaché Office (DAO), U.S. Embassy Jakarta

The Defense Attaché Office (DAO), headed by the Defense Attaché, is located in the Chancery. The United States Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps all have personnel assigned to the DAO. DAO personnel maintain military-to-military contact with their counterparts in Indonesia. DAO personnel also assist Indonesia in the modernization of its armed forces by helping to obtain U.S. military equipment and by conducting military exchange programs that enable some of Indonesia's military officers to study temporarily at U.S. military schools. Source: [http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/def\\_attache\\_ofc.html](http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/def_attache_ofc.html)

### Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC), U.S. Embassy Jakarta

The Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) provides advice and assistance to the Defense Attaché and the Chief of the U.S. Diplomatic Mission on security assistance matters and develops plans and programs in support of U.S. and Indonesian policies. ODC programs are aimed at providing assistance to the professionalization of the Indonesian military and increasing the capabilities of those civilian government agencies that exercise control over the military. These programs include providing training and education for Indonesian military and civilian government officials, as well as planning and supervising military to military engagement activities in conjunction with U.S. Embassy and U.S. Pacific Command goals. ODC also provides guidance and assistance to Indone-

### COL Russell N. Bailey



**Senior Defense Official / Defense Attaché  
Embassy of the United States of America  
Jakarta, Indonesia**

sian officials seeking military equipment from U.S. business or government sources. The director of ODC is U.S. Army Colonel, whose title is Military Attaché for Defense Cooperation. The ODC office is located in the Chancery. Source: [http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/ofc\\_defense\\_coop.html](http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/ofc_defense_coop.html)

## Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates in Indonesia, July 22, 2010

### *Continued from page 1*

since the violence took place and United States broke off engagement with the unit.

"It is a different unit than its reputation suggests," he said. "Clearly, it had a very dark past, but they have done a lot to change that. There is more to do

We think they've made steps that warrant us beginning a process of having contact and working with them once again, but there is more work to do. And we are going to help them out along the way to try and make sure this unit is as professional and respectful of human rights as possible."

No operational training is involved, though a plan for how the process will begin has not yet been formulated, given that the re-engagement discussions reached this point only days ago, the official said. At first, he said, staff talks about education and professionalization training may take

place, and human rights training, medical engagements or other forms of cooperation may follow.

Congress has been briefed, the official said, and the White House and the State Department are "fully supportive." State Department officials will conduct vetting for any Kopassus members nominated for training, he added, to ensure Indonesia is honoring the commitments it made that allowed the re-engagement process to begin. That compliance, and continued progress in professionalization, will determine how far and how quickly the level of re-engagement grows, he said.

"We think this is an important part to ensuring that we can solidify and really gain better traction on reform and professionalization that we all – U.S. and Indonesian – seek from [the Indonesian armed forces]," he said. "And to ignore an important unit ... really actually hurts the process of ensuring that these reform efforts get insti-

tuted throughout the armed forces of Indonesia."

"We consider this a very significant development in our military-to-military relationship," Gates said, "and look forward to working even more closely with [Indonesia's armed forces] in the years to come."

Source: <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=60118>

### Related Sites:

Biography of Robert M. Gates

Link: <http://goo.gl/4lQuk>

Special Report: Travels With Gates

Link: <http://goo.gl/ZdjPw>

State Department Background Note on Indonesia

Link: <http://goo.gl/g7sOI>

Transcript

Link: <http://goo.gl/buLzi>

Photo Essay: Gates Meets with Indonesian Leaders

Link: <http://goo.gl/uUkWC>

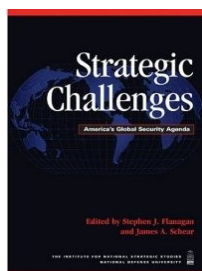
## IRC Resources on U.S. Military Issues

### BOOKS

**Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy**/Mark M. Lowenthal: CQ Press, 2009.  
ISBN: 978-0-87289-600-0

**The Mission: Waging War and Keeping Peace with America's Military**/Dana Priest : W. W. Norton & Company; , 2003. ISBN: 978-0393010244

**The Oxford Companion to American Military History**/ John Whiteclay Chambers II. Oxford University Press, USA; 2000. ISBN: 978-0195071986



**Strategic Challenges: America's Global Security Agenda** / Stephen J. Flanagan , James A. Schear : Potomac Books Inc.; 2008.  
ISBN: 978-1597971218

**The United States, NATO, and a New Multilateral Relationship**/Frank R. Douglas : Praeger, 2007.  
ISBN: 978-0313344763

### JOURNALS/MAGAZINES



**Current History: A Journal of Contemporary World Affairs**. Current History, Inc., United States. ISSN: 0011-3530

Provides a forum for leading scholars and specialists to analyze events and trends in

every region of a rapidly changing world. Link:

<http://www.currenthistory.com>

#### Foreign Affairs

Council on Foreign Relations, Inc., United States. ISSN: 0015-7120

Discusses international politics and economic thought. Link: <http://www.foreignaffairs.org>

**International Security**. M I T Press, United States. ISBN: 0162-2889

Publishes essays on all aspects of the control and use of force from all political viewpoints.

Articles cover contemporary policy issues, probing the historical and theoretical and questions behind them. Link: <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/loi/isec>

### DATABASES

The IRC maintains access to many commercial databases to respond to your information needs. The IRC professionals can search these databases for you, which include:

**Global Issues in Context** offers international viewpoints on a wide variety of global issues, topics, and current events. Issue and country pages bring together details, news, and analysis of social, political, **military**, economic, environmental, health, and cultural issues.

**CQ Global Researcher** reports cover the most current and controversial global issues of the day, from 1923 to the present. Just for the United States perspective, use CQ Researcher.



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Walk-in Visitors  
(by appointment only):  
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Closed on U.S. and Indonesian holidays.

### About the IRC

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized reference and research facility. Our goal is to provide you with accurate, up-to-date and authoritative information about U.S. society and policy materials, cover such topic as U.S. foreign policy, government, economics and trade, history, social and cultural issues.

The IRC collection includes an up-to-date reference collection, a periodicals section, and access to extensive online databases. For details on reference and periodical collections, please check our online catalog at <http://69.63.217.22/UI0086Staff/OPAC/index.asp>. For all IRC information products, including this info package are available online at: <http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/infoproduct.html>

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**Articles and web-sites described in this info package present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessary reflect official U.S. Government policy.**